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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figures 3 and 4. The figures have been corrected as requested without adding new matter.

Claims 14-25 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, due to plural and singular conflict of "threshold" in claim 14. The claim is now clear.

Claims 14, 16, and 19-22 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,689,064). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 14, 16, and 19-22, including independent claim 14.

Independent claim 14 recites determining a clutter level as a function of energy input and energy output from a clutter filter. Hager, et al. use signal strength and frequency to select clutter filter order and coefficients (col. 1, lines 51-55 and 65-67; col. 2, lines 8-13). A coefficient calculator in the clutter filter receives the input signal for configuring the clutter filter (col. 4, lines 38-53). Hager, et al. rely on the input signal, but do not feed back any output, to configure the clutter filter. Hager, et al. do not determine a clutter level as a function of energy input and energy output from a clutter filter.

Independent claim 14 recites selecting a threshold as a function of clutter level. Hager, et al. use signal strength and frequency (col. 2, lines 8-13), not clutter level to select. Hager, et al. set clutter filter coefficients and order, not a threshold.

The Examiner alleges it would have been obvious to use threshold changes for discretizing control. However, clutter filtering would not be discretized since a smooth filtering operation is desired. Hager, et al. use thresholds to determine coefficients and order. These thresholds define the type of clutter filtering to use. These thresholds would not be adaptive, otherwise the wrong clutter filter may be used for a given signal strength and frequency.

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Dependent claims 16 and 19-22 depend from claim 14, so are allowable for the same reasons. Further limitations patentably distinguish from Hager, et al. For example, claims 16, 20, and 21 recite selecting energy and velocity thresholds. Hager, et al. change clutter filter settings. Velocity and energy are estimated from clutter-filtered signals. Hager, et al. do not suggest any selection for velocity or energy thresholds.

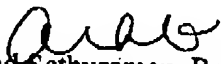
CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 943-7350 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted,


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